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## Comment unfair

Things got out of hand two weeks ago at Council when Mayor Russ Miller was berated by a few members for his remarks at the Acton Fall Fair.

We don't want to add to an already overblown issue about hog-calling and pigs.

But what disturbs us is the discussion escalated into criticism of the Mayor's role as a town representative attending social functions.

A comment by Coun. Pam Sheldon about his absence from certain outings was unnecessary - especially since the Mayor was not at the meeting to defend himself.

No one knows better the tiring and trying job the Mayor has in placating hundreds of requests for appearances better than the media. Weekly he is performing ribbon-cuttings, sod-turnings, making speeches, signing proclamations, dropping pucks, and attending meetings with residents and businesses.

The press knows the odd hours the Mayor works because they're right alongside him taking his picture. Most of the requests are on weekends and week nights. We've witnessed Mayor Miller make special efforts countless times to accommodate his constituents.

In a sense, that bothers us. It's too bad more people don't realize the time being spent by the Mayor is limited. He's forced to work enough unpaid overtime in one term to last a lifetime. Some may say it goes with political office. We feel differently however.

A mayor has to be left free to work at his office, to enjoy his family and make social plans of his own. Council could be doing the Mayor a favor by volunteering for more official functions rather than criticizing the Mayor's commitment.

Some time has to be left for Mayor Miller to attend to the more important functions of running town affairs. He's doing his share of attending social functions now. Anyone who thinks otherwise should walk a mile in his shoes. The soles of their feet would soon be full of blisters.

## Building a 'centre'

Seniors in Acton need a community centre. Therefore, it's good to see that an opportunity may arise to find a place suitable for the elderly to meet.

An organizational meeting is being held tomorrow (Thursday) night at the Acton Social Services and Information Centre on Willow Street in Acton. Plan to attend if you want to see our seniors enjoy a few extra comforts and benefit from more activities and an increase in social programs.

The seniors want a place of their own to plan a wide variety of activities. Now they are meeting twice each month at St. Alban's Church Hall, but the facilities are not big enough for the membership of 150.

In Acton there are estimated to be about 1200 seniors who would be potential users of the new seniors' centre.

Government help is available for funding if the seniors' centre is open to all of the elderly in the community.

A committee needs to be elected to work on planning, promoting and executing the acquisition of a centre. Expertise is required in numerous areas.

If you would like to be a part of this exciting project and help build a better future for Acton, plan to attend the meeting at 7:30 p.m. tomorrow.

Seniors and non-seniors are needed. A willingness to contribute are the only qualifications required to volunteer.

## Apologies to Nan

Our apologies to Nan Wheeler for making her age before her very eyes - not to mention the eyes of Herald readers.

When it's time  
To kick up your heels  
And dig up the soil  
And show the world  
There's still life left  
In this "old girl!"

Nan Wheeler



### Editor's notebook

By Dave Roney

Mrs. Wheeler was the topic of conversation at town council two weeks ago for the problems she has had with a flooding basement. Council kindly offered to repair a culvert outside of her home near Glen Williams.

That she was thankful for. But she was somewhat taken aback when our newspaper incorrectly printed her age. More misinformation! In a phone conversation, Mrs. Wheeler said we were off by more than 10 years in referring to her as an 84 year old resident. But she didn't want us to print her real age.

Apparently one of the councillors talked to Mrs. Wheeler's relative about the problem and there was a mix-up in the actual age of the Glen resident.

It was compounded when several other councillors mentioned her age, not knowing it was incorrect. The Herald thought it was dealing with an accurate number.

Monday we received a note from Mrs. Wheeler and in good faith have agreed to take our lumps from her creative pen. Here's her letter:

Dear Sir:  
Since this has been a week of laughs at my expense, I hope you will put the following few words in - on the front - page at your expense - then we'll call it all equal.

When over night  
You find you've grown  
Old in years  
And bent in toil  
Air turned gray  
With trouble and woe  
No one to turn to  
No place to go

Missing in our paper because of all the election coverage Sept. 10 was the news that schools in Halton opened a day late. Reason? A professional development day for teachers.

I was surprised we received no letters to the editor about this issue from parents and residents. First, why delay bringing back students for a day when teachers could have come in a day early? They already receive the summer off when the majority of us are allowed 24 weeks vacation.

Second, why do students or teachers need a day away from school during the first day back? Why not schedule the day for the middle of October when both pupils and their mentors could use a break?

Our newsroom is abuzz with busy students putting in hours here on co-op work terms. Julie Holmes is from Georgetown District High School and she's with us every day for about three hours until January. From Sheridan College, Donna Kell is studying here, writing stories every Thursday until Christmas.

A former co-op student from Georgetown high, Monique Tobin is now studying journalism at Carleton. Last year Monique impressed us so much she landed a part-time job in our darkroom handling our re-print work. She's been replaced by Joanna McTaggart, who also writes a high school column in our Friday Outlook, alternating each week with Jamie Harrison. Acton correspondent Leslie McCrystal writes about happenings each week at Acton District High School.

If you encounter one of our budding Ernest Hemingways, please help them in their reporting roles.

## Health report an ideological claptrap

At best, it is ideological claptrap. At worst, it is a patronizing demeaning hatchet job on humanity.

Those are the options from which to choose to describe the report produced by the panel that looked at "health goals" for the Ministry of Health.

It was set up to provide advice to the provincial government about what it could do to make Ontarians healthier.

"These goals are to be linked to appropriate data and stated in a way which will facilitate planning for their achievement." The panel's terms of reference read.

But, the panel, chaired by Professor Robert Spasoff of the University of Ottawa, instead chose to wander off into the Twilight Zone.

One can practically hear the theme music from the world beyond behind the following sentences:

"A healthful life is much more than freedom from illness and disability. Health is an asset, a resource which gives people and families the ability to lead productive and satisfying lives."

"It implies a holistic concept of well-being - mental, emotional,

spiritual as well as social - and goes beyond a medically defined healthy body to include elements such as joy in living and full community participation." It said.



### Queen's Park

By Derek Nelson

#### DIFFICULTY

Of course, the panel acknowledges in passing that there is "difficulty" in measuring concepts like quality of life, but decided to "include them in the list of goals despite this problem."

After all, what's a little "difficulty" or two when you have an ideological Edsel to sell.

The report is heavily in this vein throughout.

"Take as an example its fundamental premise, which is couched in the usual jargon.

To wit: "The core values which underpin the panel's vision for

achievement of this mission (of health for all Ontarians) are health as a resource, a sense of community, equity and quality of life.

"In this vision, the people of Ontario would support each other in performing all the functions of life, and in developing to their maximum potential.

"The key factors enabling Ontarians to enjoy more years in good health would be peace, an adequate income, adequate housing and food, and a valued role to play in family, work and community, along with a safe environment and a healthy lifestyle."

Thus, this panel on Ontario's health recommends nuclear-free zones and frowns on high-level nuclear waste disposal.

Thus, too, it says nothing about the responsibility of individuals to do something about their own health, like stopping smoking, drinking alcohol, and over-eating.

#### OBLIGATIONS

In fact, it specifically removes that obligation with conclusions such as these:

"Achievement of full health potential can be facilitated by a system of incentives and rewards, but should

never lead to victim blaming for those individuals who fail to adopt healthy practices."

Why not?  
"Society must avoid blaming individuals, who can only choose from among the options which are available to them.

"Accessibility to these options is defined by income, culture, environment, and ultimately by public policy," it said.

In short, the panel suggests free choice is nonsense. The human mind is trash. "Public policy," meaning government, is "ultimately" responsible.

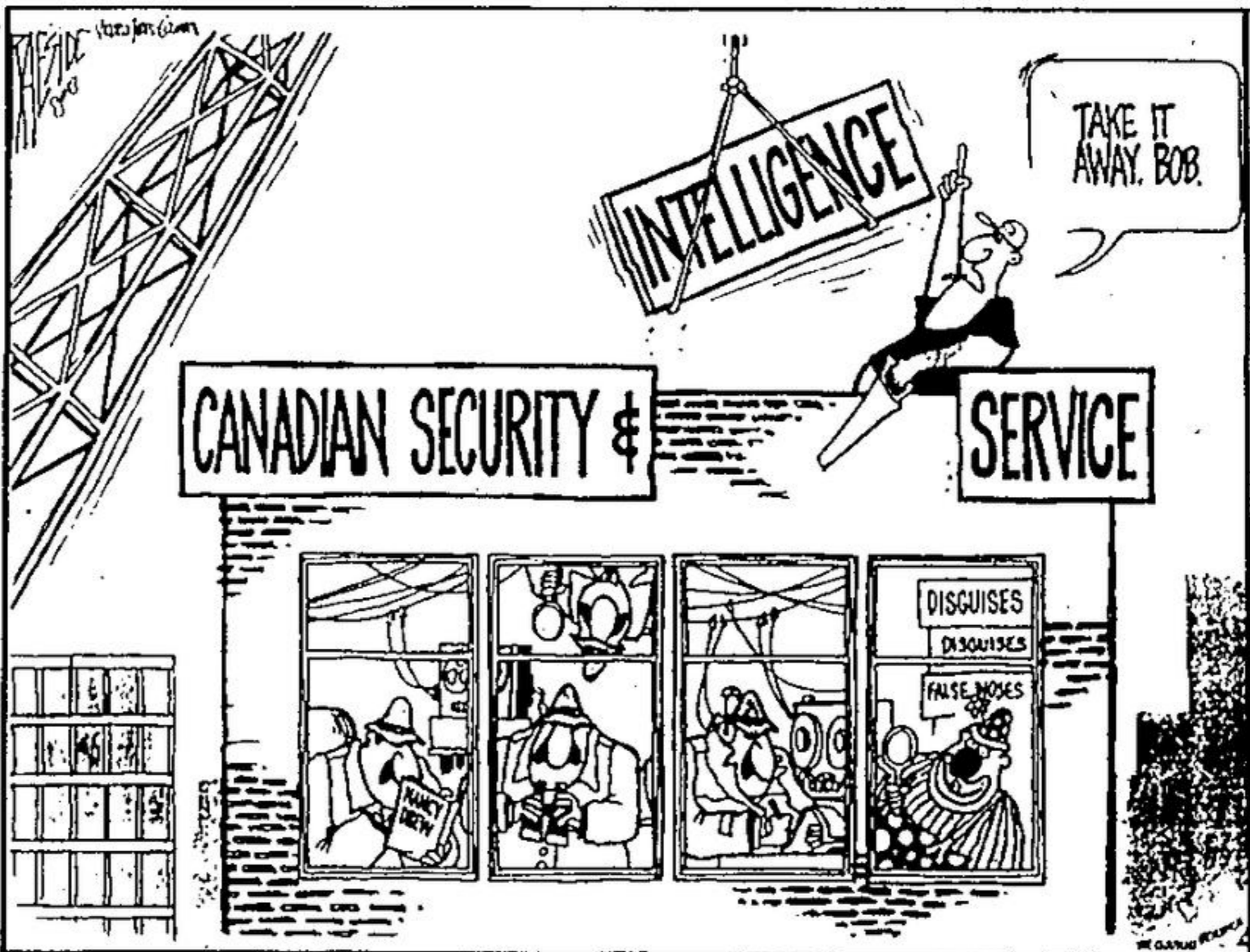
"Healthy lifestyle changes may be too much to expect of individuals and groups who have little control over their quality of life," it said.

What a degrading view of humanity. It is the ability to rise above circumstance and temptation that separates the human species from its primate cousins.

We don't always grab the banana just because it is there.

But, if we did, the panel's conclusion is that it isn't our fault.

Welcome to the nanny state.



### 30 years ago

Annie Josephine Sanderson of Elora married Gerald Graham Morrow of Georgetown in Elora United Church Saturday. The new couple will live in Georgetown.

Lisa Sergio, internationally-known news analyst and radio commentator, told a group of people at Knox Presbyterian Church, that women must take larger roles in government policy-making. Miss Sergio was brought to Georgetown by the local Business and Professional Women's organization to celebrate Business Women's Week.

Six Georgetown residents were the happy winners of an appliance contest on the weekend at McClure's Furniture and Appliance store. The winners were: Mrs. Ivan Elliott, Mrs. P. Brown, Mrs. Robert Heaton, Mrs. R.J. Neale, Margaret McGuigan and R. Morris Cook.

Scotty Patterson was elected coach of Georgetown's hockey team The Raiders on the weekend. The new Junior Raiders coach is Bill Chard.

### 10 years ago

Provincial NDP Leader Stephen Lewis told a Georgetown woman that he will investigate overcrowding at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. The woman phoned into Mr. Lewis radio talk show on CHIC Friday but did not identify herself. The hospital is planning to expand its facilities to include 100 new beds and a 90-bed active treatment unit. The woman told the NDP Leader the hospital is putting patients in beds in the corridors.

Councillor Pat McKenzie is advising Ontario Treasurer to ignore an appeal by the Acton for Actonians committee to make Acton a separate town affiliated with Regional Council. Mr. McKenzie said such a move would be a backward and unrealistic step for Halton.

Two sites have been chosen for the Georgetown and Acton branches of the new legal aid clinic. The Georgetown office will be located at St. John's United Church and the Acton office will be in the Acton Community Centre.

Georgetown Rotary Club past president Bud Bishop has been awarded the Paul Harris fellowship for his contribution to the Rotary Club International.

### 15 years ago

The Fall Fair Board is preparing for the first Miss Fall Fair contest tomorrow night. The winner will be eligible to enter the Sweetheart of the Fairs contest held each year at the CNE. Contestants will wear mini-skirts or hotpants at the event. One of the judges will be O.M. Higgins, Mayor of Georgetown, South Carolina, who is the Fair's guest of honor.

The Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Board will proceed with phase one of its expansion following approval of its plan at Monday's council meeting. Construction is expected to begin next year.

A developer is planning to build 32 townhouses at the corner of Sinclair and Duncan Streets. Fred Zorge submitted his proposal to the town's planning committee last week.

Thirteen families attended the first campout of the Hungry Hollow Hobos on the weekend. The Georgetown chapter of the National Campers and Hikers Association held its campout in Acton. Those attending included; Lorene and Gary Barton, Jacki and Bob Morrow and Sandy and Bill Van Gael.

### 5 years ago

Town Council agreed Monday to allow construction of rural estates on the fringes of Georgetown and Acton.

The fate of the 100-year-old Acton Town Hall lies in the balance as the Ontario Heritage review board and town council fight over which body should make the final decision. A hearing had been set for September 16 but it was postponed because of a public notice technicality. Acton chairman Ted Tyler said delays in the procedure reduce the chances of a good future for the old hall.

Feminist writer Constance Bereford-Howe spoke in a special lecture at the John Elliott Theatre last week. She told a group of about 100 that her strong interest in freedom, especially, women's freedoms, prompted her to write her novels.

## Citizens' forum

### Drinking water dangers?

Dear Sir:

Help! Land around the town wells is to be sold as building lots. Do people know that the pumping station is off Princess Anne? There has been a startling lack of information.

We are the envy of areas forced to drink water from Lake Ontario. If there is the slightest chance of well contamination as water soaks through the tons of fill that must go into that swamp, we cannot wait until the damage is done. The cost of the municipal complex will seem small beside the cost of buying clean water.

Even if the wells are not in jeopardy and we are only faced with losing green space and the birds and wildlife of that area, is that not an important concern? If Georgetown is to grow then politicians must have some vision and plan for green space. What better area to leave undisturbed than the swampy land around the town wells.

Is it by accident or design that there has been no mention of the town wells in the few lines reporting passage of the motion to sell the Princess Anne property?

Please phone someone on town council. NOW is the time to ask questions.

Yours truly,  
Barbara Halsall  
877-0344

### Red Cross a partner in UW

Dear Sir:

The Red Cross is a "Partner" in the United Way of Halton Hills. In October you will be contacted by canvassers who will inform you

about United Way, its members and the various methods of contribution. It is possible to direct your donation to a specific organization, such as, The Red Cross, or to any number of organizations in the United Way.

Through your support the Red Cross will be able to continue to offer a wide variety of community services such as: blood donor clinics, water safety programmes, first aid courses, homemaker services, emergency services, senior's services and emergency driving for those unable to obtain public or family transportation to out-of-town medical appointments.

If you work outside of Halton Hills and donate to United Way through payroll deduction, your contribution remains in the area where you work. Therefore, we urge you to designate your contribution to the United Way of Halton Hills. This can be done at any time by contacting your payroll department and asking them to forward your payroll deductions to:

United Way of Halton Hills,  
P.O. Box 186  
Halton Hills (Georgetown) Ontario  
L7G 4Y5

Thank you for your continued support of the Red Cross through your contribution to the United Way.

Sincerely,  
Leslie Arnison  
Public Relations Chairman  
Red Cross Society of Georgetown.

### Thanks to track club

Dear Sir:

On behalf of the Halton Hills Unit

of the Canadian Cancer Society. I would like to publicly thank the Georgetown Track Club for the time and energy they devoted to planning this year's Terry Fox Run. They did a first-class job!

Thank you, too, to the following who generously donated items for the run: Tim Horton Donuts, Neilsons, Dairy Queen, M and M Pro Sports, Georgetown Fabrics and T.D.W. Sales and Service Ltd.

To all who helped organize, those who sponsored and those who took part, thank you for enabling our town to keep Terry's dream alive.

Yours truly,  
Eleanore Scarth  
President - Halton Hills Unit.

### Cancer ride is successful

Dear Sir,

On behalf of Peter and Betty Bot, I would like to express sincerest thanks to all supporters of their ninth Annual Motorcycle Ride for Cancer. Thanks, as well, to your paper, The Herald, for your cooperation.

The success of this ride is another measure of the outstanding support given by the citizens of Halton Hills to their Cancer Unit. Congratulations Peter and Betty.

Yours truly,  
Barbara Johnson  
Public Relations

### In your opinion

## Affordable housing at issue



**ANDREA PERRYMAN:**  
"We're acting on behalf of the entire community. We think it's really important for Georgetown to have affordable housing."



**BRUCE ROOKER:**  
"I would like the park to stay here, but if not, I'd like to see it relocated. It isn't like the city at all - no one bothers you and it's affordable housing."



**LARRY ELLIOTT:**  
"We're hoping for another park. We like the park setting - it's a good retirement facility for my wife and me; it's in our price range and the people are great."



**JACQUISHAW:**  
"I want the community to remain intact. That's what we're really hoping for."



**STUART GRAY:**  
"I'd really like relocation of the park. There is no such thing as affordable housing anymore. In a single income family, I find it hard to afford a \$100,000 home."

QUESTION: As a Willow Park resident, what do you hope to gain if the trailer park's predicament is ever solved?